CHOI • RIO

GEN 13

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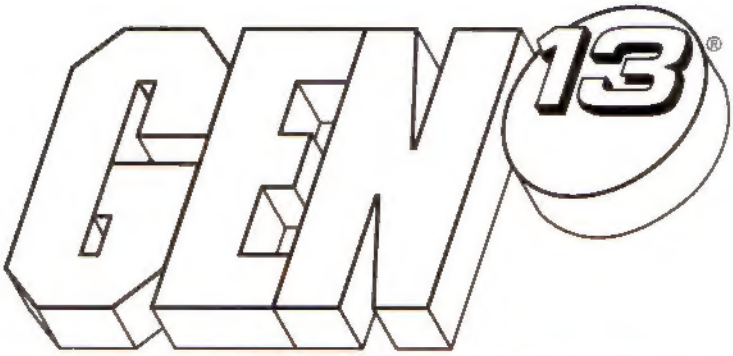

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Meet the Gen13! Rainmaker, Freefall, Grunge, Burnout, and Fairchild. These Gen-Active teenagers, first generation descendants of the legendary Team 7, were recruited into I.O.'s program, Project Genesis, a project secretly intended to develop superhumans. Upon discovering that the program was nothing more than a breeding ground for Gen-Actives, they escaped the compound with the help of renegade I.O. agent, John Lynch, and to this day remain fugitives.

FAIRCHILD: Caitlin Fairchild. The daughter of Team 7's Alex Fairchild. Deemed the unofficial leader of the group, Fairchild possesses superhuman strength, speed, agility and intelligence.

GRUNGE: Percival Edmund Chang. The son of Team 7's Philip Chang. This slovenly, cold pizza-eating party animal has the power to mimic the molecular structure of any material he touches.

BURNOUT: Bobby Lane. The son of John Lynch. Burnout can project high energy plasma, which bursts into flame when exposed to oxygen. He is impervious to heat and can fly by creating thermal updrafts.

RAINMAKER: Sarah Rainmaker. Apache born, Rainmaker has the ability to control the natural elements. She can also fly by manipulating the air currents and can direct water with a simple gesture. The amplifier bands she wears on her wrists enable her to deliver very potent electric blasts.

FREEFALL: Roxanne Spaulding. The youngest and spunkiest of the team, Freefall can void the pull of gravity and levitate herself or any other being or object she desires.

IN CASE YOU'RE JUST JOINING US...

Roxy, Grunge, and Fairchild were being held captive aboard an alien spaceship, when it collided with a much bigger spaceship. The larger of the two vehicles housed the Drahn— an ancient race of ferocious and merciless beings who had been dormant for quite some time. The impact of the crash awoke a Drahn warrior who sought to make mincemeat out of the GEN13 kids. After a struggle, the kids squashed the warrior and made the repairs to the ship that they hope will finally get them home....

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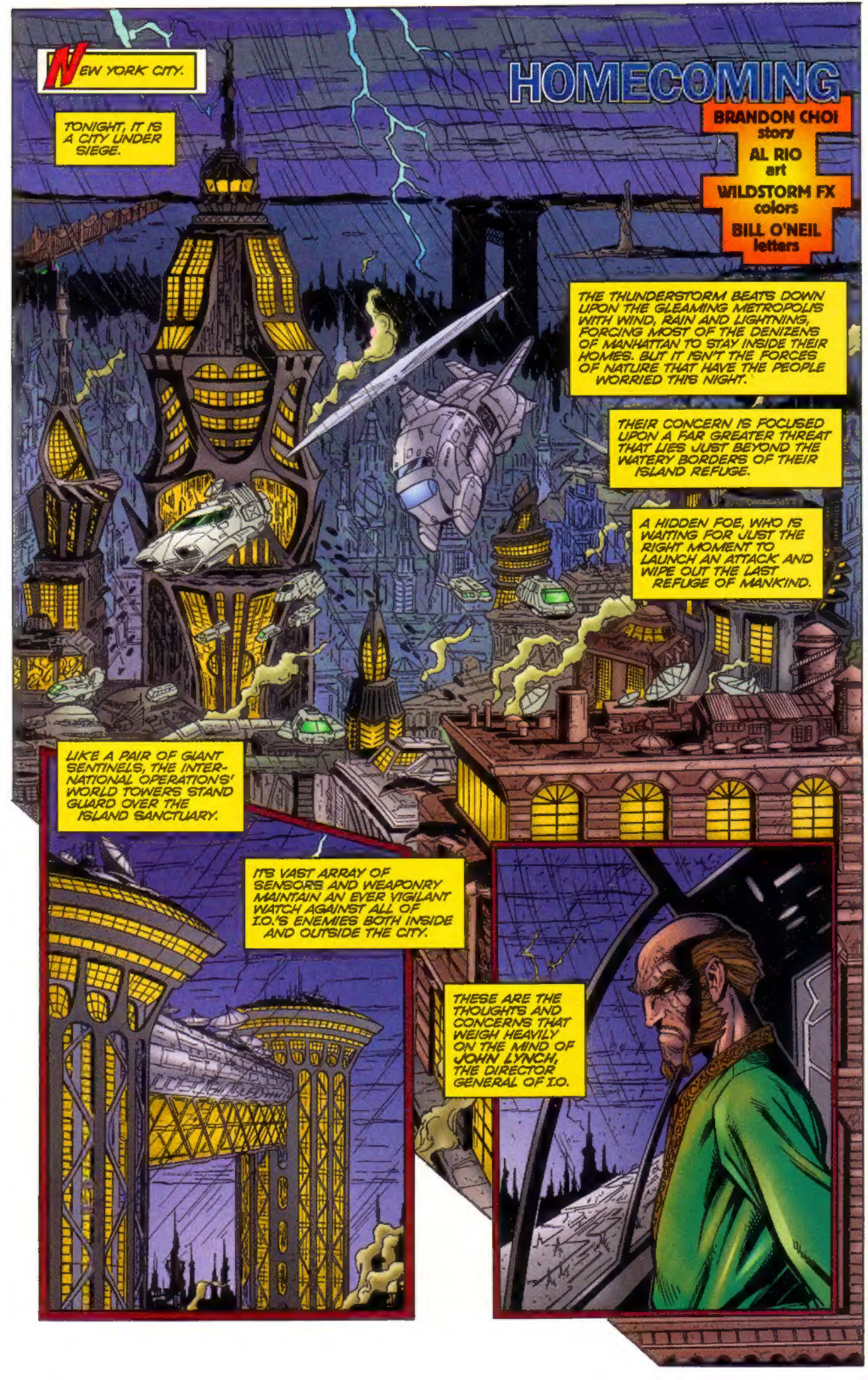
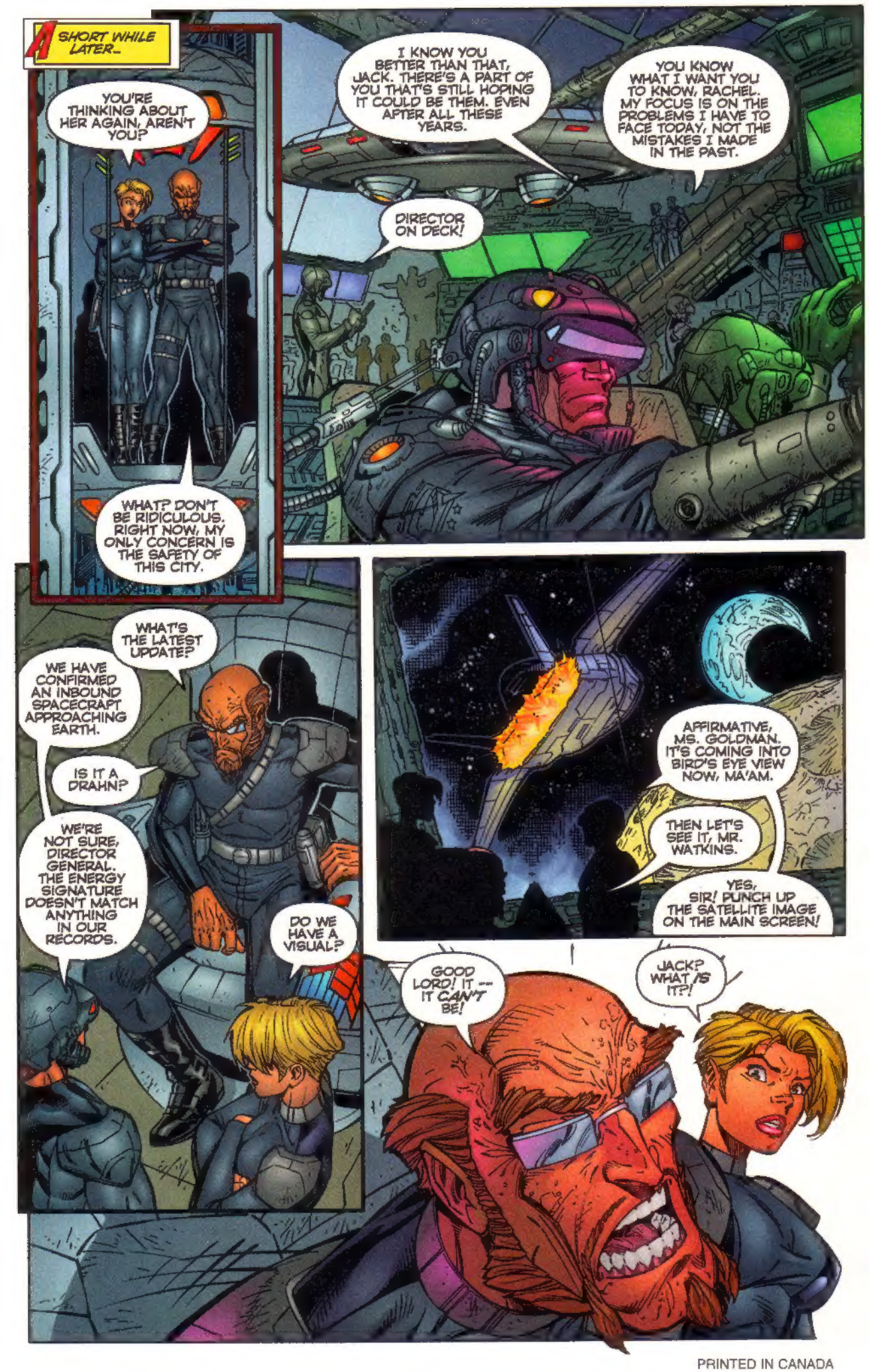

NEW YORK CITY.
HOMECOMING
BRANDON CHOI story
AL RIO art
WILDSTORM FX colors
BILL O'NEIL letters
TONIGHT, IT IS A CITY UNDER SIEGE.
THE THUNDERSTORM BEATS DOWN UPON THE GLEAMING METROPOLIS WITH WIND, RAIN AND LIGHTNING, FORCING MOST OF THE DENIZENS OF MANHATTAN TO STAY INSIDE THEIR HOMES. BUT IT ISN'T THE FORCES OF NATURE THAT HAVE THE PEOPLE WORRIED THIS NIGHT.
THEIR CONCERN IS FOCUSED UPON A FAR GREATER THREAT THAT LIES JUST BEYOND THE WATERY BORDERS OF THEIR ISLAND REFUGE.
A HIDDEN FOE, WHO IS WAITING FOR JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK AND WIPE OUT THE LAST REFUGE OF MANKIND.
LIKE A PAIR OF GIANT SENTINELS, THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS' WORLD TOWERS STAND GUARD OVER THE ISLAND SANCTUARY.
ITS VAST ARRAY OF SENSORS AND WEAPONRY MAINTAIN AN EVER VIGILANT WATCH AGAINST ALL OF I.O.'S ENEMIES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY.
THESE ARE THE THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS THAT WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE MIND OF JOHN LYNCH, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF I.O.

KUK
EH?
WHAT IS IT? YES, HE'S HERE.
...
I UNDERSTAND. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
TROUBLE, RACHEL?
THE TECHS IN THE SPACE BUREAU HAVE DETECTED SOME EXTRATERRESTRIAL ACTIVITY.
THEY WANT US TO COME DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK AT IT. IT'S PROBABLY JUST SPACE DEBRIS.
YOU KNOW HOW EVERYONE HAS BEEN SO WIRED LATELY, AND THIS THUNDER-STORM CERTAINLY ISN'T HELPING MATTERS ANY.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. OTHERWISE...
A SOMBER SILENCE FALLS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE WOMAN, AS NEITHER ONE OF THEM WANTS TO CONTEMPLATE THE TERRIFYING ALTERNATIVE.



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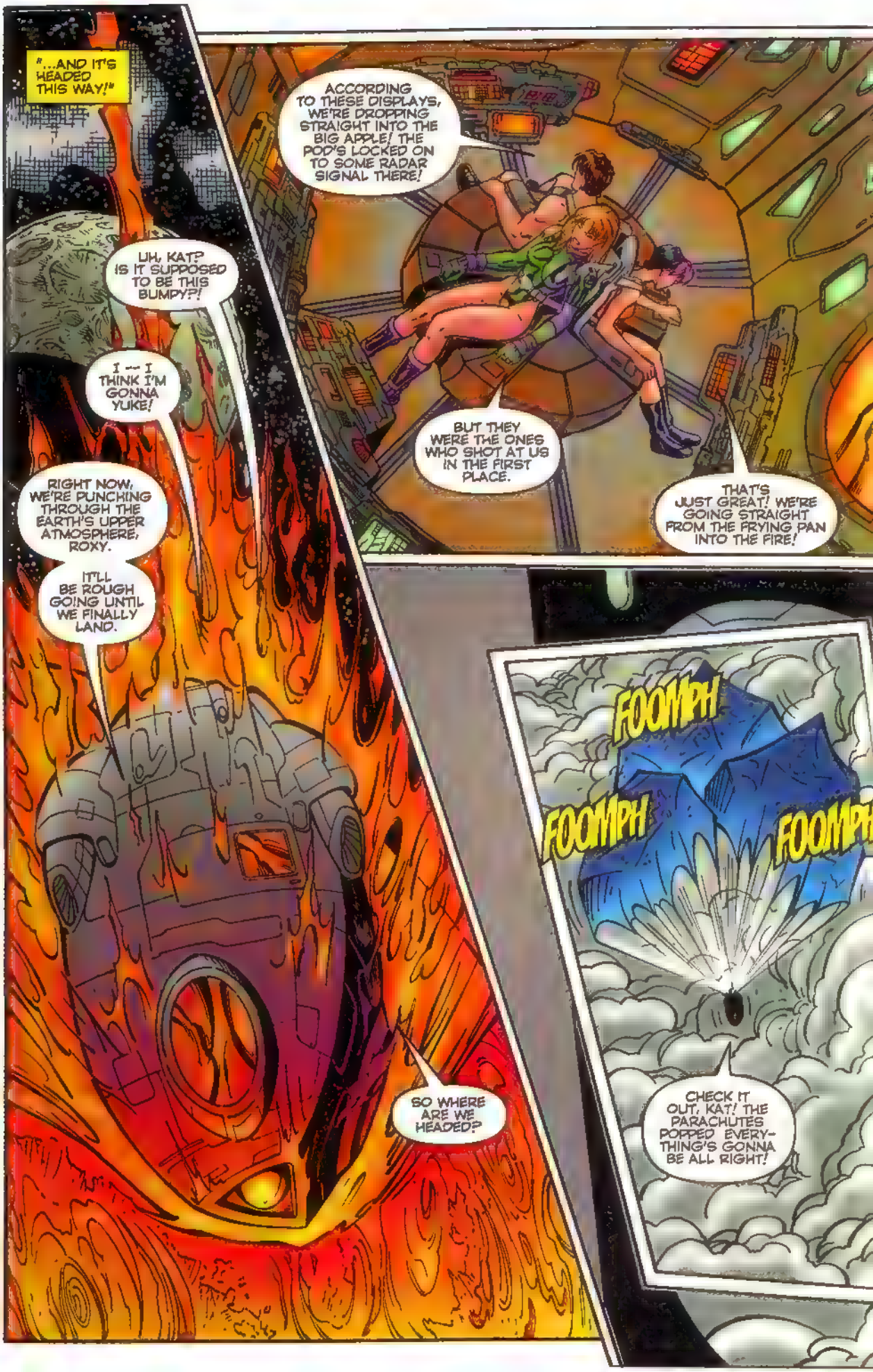
"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST SEEN A GHOST!"
LOOK, YOU GUYS! IT'S EARTH!
THEN WE MADE IT, KAT!
WE'RE HOME!
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL US, ROXY?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?!
GRONK SAYS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO PUT THE SHIP INTO ORBIT AND THEN LET US TAKE THE LAST ESCAPE POD TO GET BACK.
HUH?! HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST SORTA MADE SENSE TO ME. MUST BE ANOTHER ONE OF MY HIDDEN TALENTS.
IT'S PROBABLY GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH KOBEH AND THAT MOMENT YOU SHARED BEFORE HE DIED.*
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT COULD BE IT, TOO.
* SEE LAST ISSUE.
NOW THE PROBLEM IS FIGURING OUT WHERE WE'RE GOING TO LAND.
VEEP! VEEP! VEEP! VEEP!
UH-OH. WHAT'S GOING ON, GRUNGE?
THE SHIP'S BEING SCANNED. ACCORDING TO GRONK, THE SIGNAL'S COMING FROM NEW YORK CITY!
WHAT? SHOULDN'T THEY BE CALLING FROM HOUSTON OR CAPE CANAVERAL?

KATHOOM
WHA-- WHAT WAS THAT?!
HE SAYS THEY JUST TOOK A SHOT AT US!
NO $#@%, SHERLOCK! BUT WHY?! WHAT'D WE DO?!
GRONK HAS NO IDEA! RIGHT NOW, HE SAYS WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE ESCAPE POD!
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT! THE COLLECTORS TOOK THE REST WHEN THEY ABANDONED SHIP AFTER WE COLLIDED WITH THE DRAHN SPACESHIP!
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?!
GIVING US A CHANCE TO GET AWAY!
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE OTHERS BEHIND!
I DON'T THINK HE'S GIVING US A CHOICE, KAT.
WHAT'S GRONK SAYING?!
"GOOD-BYE, MY FRIENDS..."
OMIGOSH!
THEY'RE... GONE!
THEY SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO SAVE US.
...AND GOOD LUCK.

"IT JUST ISN'T FAIR!"
NOOO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
NUH- NOTHING -- DIRECTOR GENERAL!
YOU'VE DESTROYED THEIR SHIP!
THAT WAS THE AUTOMATIC DEFENSE SYSTEM, SIR! THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO --
SLAM
UNNGH!
THEN THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR YOU TO DO NOW, MR. WATKINS --
-- IS JOIN THEM!
VVVMMMM
STOP IT, JACK.
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WRASSH
ARRGHH!
RACHEL GOLDMAN IS CAUGHT OFF-GUARD BY THE FEROCITY OF LYNCH'S PSI-BLAST.
BUT AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, SUBLIME ACTIVATES HER OWN GEN-FACTOR POWER TO ALTER THE VERY MOLECULAR DENSITY OF HER BODY...

IN ORDER TO SURVIVE THE BONE-SHATTERING IMPACT!
KATHOOM
HUNNGH!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
RACHEL!
I'LL LIVE, JACK. AND FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, SO WILL WATKINS.
IF YOU'D GIVEN HIM A CHANCE TO FINISH, HE'D HAVE TOLD YOU THAT A CAPSULE WAS EJECTED FROM THE SHIP JUST BEFORE IT EXPLODED.
"ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS GET TO IT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DOES."
WELCOME TO CHINATOWN.
THOUGH THIS LITTLE COMMUNITY EXISTS UNDER THE LONG SHADOWS OF I.O.'S MONOLITHIC TOWERS, IT IS A NEAR-AUTONOMOUS CITY-STATE UNTO ITSELF.
IT'S LABYRINTHINE STREETS AND CLOSE-MOUTHED CITIZENRY MAKE IT THE IDEAL SANCTUARY FOR A SMALL BAND OF REBELS DETERMINED TO CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITARIAN RULE OF I.O. AND ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL.
SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY UP, DOC.

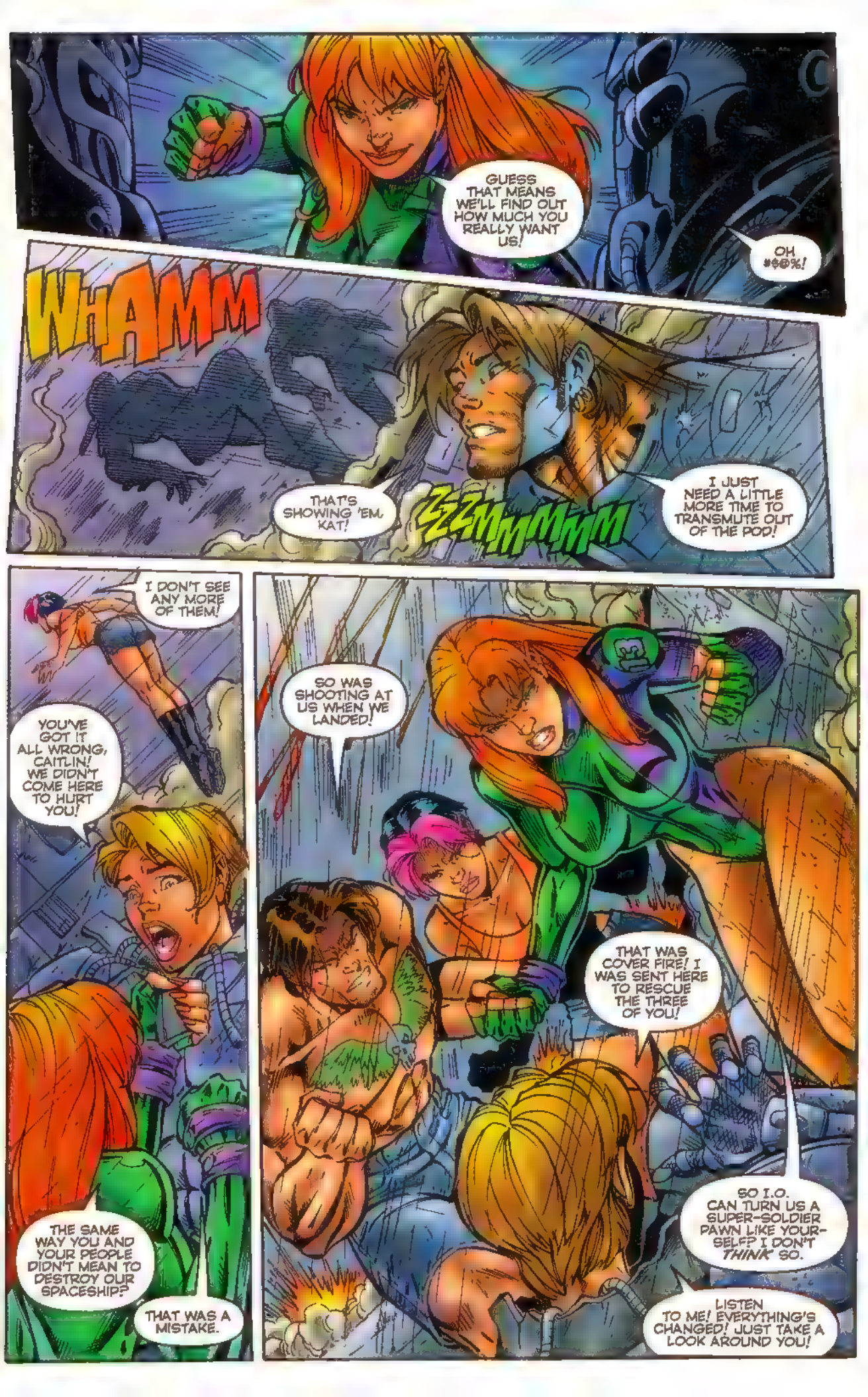
IT LOOKS LIKE DEBRIS ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE, BOBBY.
DO YOU SUPPOSE I.O. SHOT DOWN A DRAHN SPACESHIP?
IT'S POSSIBLE, SARAH. BUT I DON'T THINK THE DRAHN WOULD BE SUCH EASY TARGETS. IT COULD, HOWEVER BE A RUSE TO TEST I.O.'S DEFENSES, TO LOOK FOR ANY WEAK POINTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, DOC. THAT WASN'T ANY DRAHN SHIP THAT I.O. BLASTED UP THERE.
THIS IS THE IMAGE WE LEECHED FROM ONE OF I.O.'S SATELLITE FEEDS.
SO, IT WAS A SPACESHIP. BUT IT DOESN'T RESEMBLE ANY DRAHN DESIGN THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH.
OR ANY NASA, STORMWATCH OR I.O. SPACESHIP, EITHER.
HOLD IT! THAT'S THE SHIP THAT TOOK OFF WITH CAITLIN, ROXY AND GRUNGE!
BOBBY'S RIGHT! BUT THAT MEANS...
...THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
MAYBE NOT, SARAH.
ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST READINGS, ONE OF THE SPACESHIP'S ESCAPE PODS MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION...

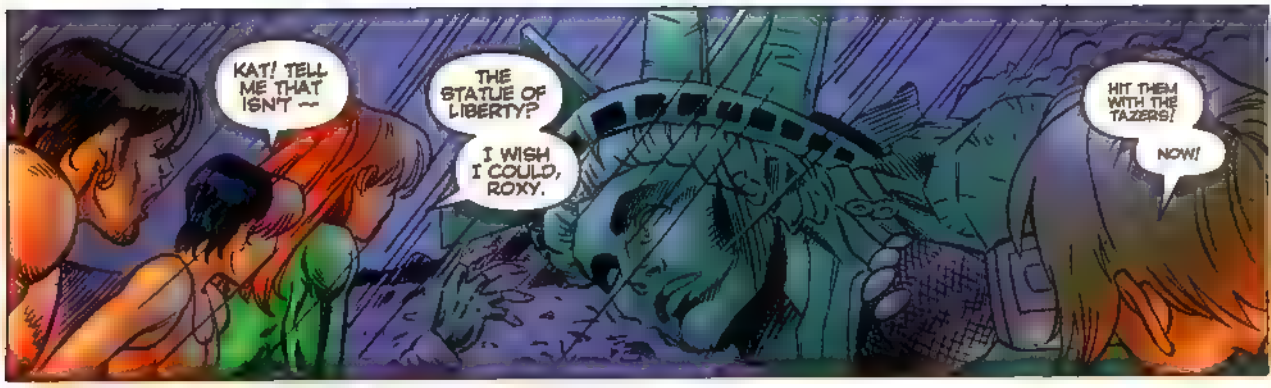

"...AND IT'S HEADED THIS WAY!"
UH, KAT? IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS BUMPY?!
I -- I THINK I'M GONNA YUKE!
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE PUNCHING THROUGH THE EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE, ROXY.
IT'LL BE ROUGH GOING UNTIL WE FINALLY LAND.
SO WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
ACCORDING TO THESE DISPLAYS, WE'RE DROPPING STRAIGHT INTO THE BIG APPLE! THE POD'S LOCKED ON TO SOME RADAR SIGNAL THERE!
BUT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO SHOT AT US IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THAT'S JUST GREAT! WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!
FOOMPH
FOOMPH
FOOMPH
CHECK IT OUT, KAT! THE PARACHUTES POPPED EVERY-THING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!

THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO CHANGE OUR HEADING, KAT.
NEW YORK CITY WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS IF WE DON'T START DECELERATING SOON, GRUNGE.
KRAKA/BOOM
WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, GRUNGE! TAKE A LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW. I'D SAY WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT INTO A THUNDERSTORM!
WHOOAA! SCOPE OUT THAT LIGHTNING BOLT ACTION, ROX!
AND ANY OF THOSE COULD VAPORIZE US.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US?! WHEN IS THIS NIGHTMARE FINALLY GOING TO END?!
WE'LL BE VULNERABLE UNTIL WE TOUCH DOWN.

THUMPH!
WE'VE BEEN HIT!
UNNH!
I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!
HEY, WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
WE MADE IT DOWN IN ONE PIECE.
THAT MEANS WE'RE FINALLY SAFE, RIGHT, KAT?
KRRSSSHH
GET BACK! THEY'RE BLASTING THROUGH THE MAIN HATCH!
WHAT THE $#@% WAS THAT?
SOMEBODY OUTSIDE IS SHOOTING AT US!
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE! WHO'D WANT TO KILL US ALREADY?

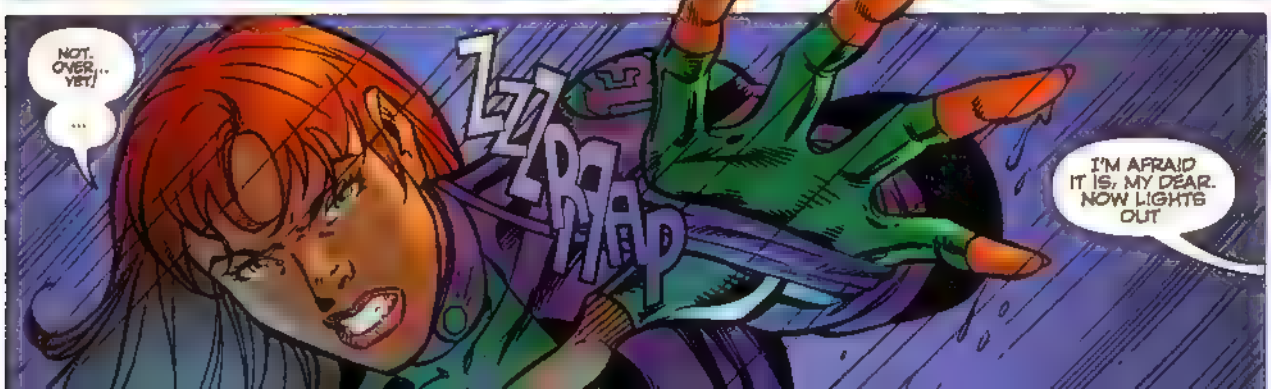
WE'RE INSIDE THE CAPSULE, RAZOR LEADER!
KEEPERS?! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED AS MUCH!
AND WE'VE GOT AT LEAST THREE LIVE ONES, MA'AM!
THEN TAKE THEM INTO CUSTODY.
ROGER THAT!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
RUN?!
NO WAY! I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF THESE GOONS PUSHING US AROUND!
KRRSH
ZZMMMM
I HEAR YA, ROX! IT'S TIME WE STARTED PUSHING BACK!
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR US, FAIRCHILD! SURRENDER NOW AND MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELVES!
NEVER!
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER, WE'D RATHER DIE THAN SURRENDER TO THE LIKES OF YOU!

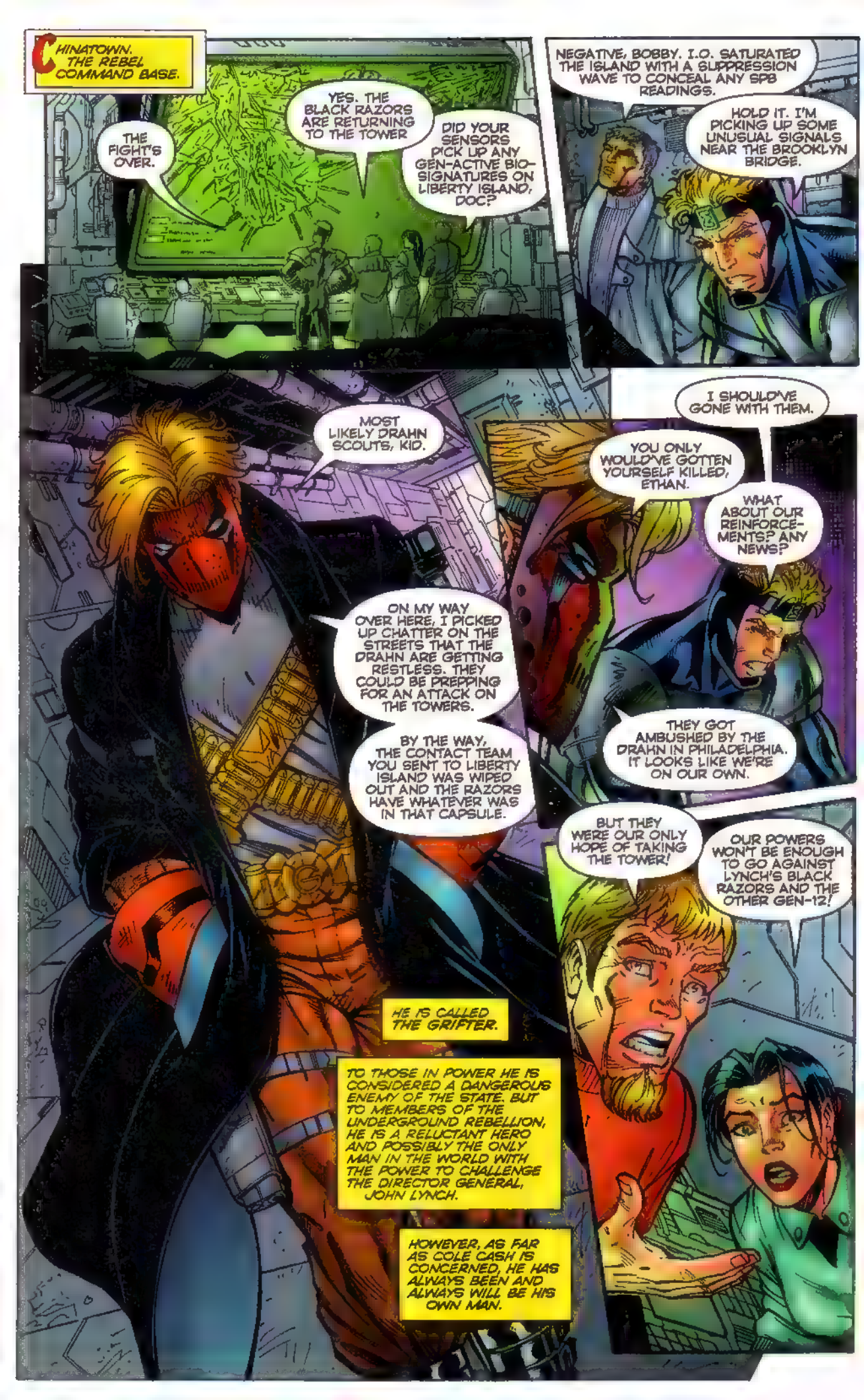

GUESS THAT MEANS WE'LL FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU REALLY WANT US!
OH #$@%!
WHAMM
THAT'S SHOWING 'EM, KAT!
ZZZMMMMM
I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME TO TRANSMUTE OUT OF THE POD!
I DON'T SEE ANY MORE OF THEM!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, CAITLIN! WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO HURT YOU!
THE SAME WAY YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE DIDN'T MEAN TO DESTROY OUR SPACESHIP?
THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
SO WAS SHOOTING AT US WHEN WE LANDED!
THAT WAS COVER FIRE! I WAS SENT HERE TO RESCUE THE THREE OF YOU!
SO I.O. CAN TURN US A SUPER-SOLDIER PAWN LIKE YOURSELF? I DON'T *THINK* SO.
LISTEN TO ME! EVERYTHING'S CHANGED! JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU!


KAT! TELL ME THAT ISN'T --
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY?
I WISH I COULD, ROXY.
HIT THEM WITH THE TAZERS!
NOW!

"THEY'VE LEFT US NO OTHER CHOICE!"
THAT LYING BIT--
AAAGH!
WATCH OUT!
ARRGH!
ZZZZZRRRRAAAAP
AAIIEEE!

STILL ON YOUR FEET CAITLIN? I'M IMPRESSED
THEN JUST WAIT... TILL I GET MY HANDS...ON YOU!
WELL, IT WON'T BE TONIGHT. HIT HER AGAIN.
ZZZRRRAAAP


NOT. OVER... YET!
...
ZZZRRAAP
I'M AFRAID IT IS, MY DEAR. NOW LIGHTS OUT


CHINATOWN. THE REBEL COMMAND BASE.
THE FIGHT'S OVER.
YES. THE BLACK RAZORS ARE RETURNING TO THE TOWER
DID YOUR SENSORS PICK UP ANY GEN-ACTIVE BIO-SIGNATURES ON LIBERTY ISLAND, DOC?
NEGATIVE, BOBBY. I.O. SATURATED THE ISLAND WITH A SUPPRESSION WAVE TO CONCEAL ANY SPB READINGS.
HOLD IT. I'M PICKING UP SOME UNUSUAL SIGNALS NEAR THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.
MOST LIKELY DRAHN SCOUTS, KID.
I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH THEM.
YOU ONLY WOULD'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF KILLED, ETHAN.
WHAT ABOUT OUR REINFORCE-MENTS? ANY NEWS?
ON MY WAY OVER HERE, I PICKED UP CHATTER ON THE STREETS THAT THE DRAHN ARE GETTING RESTLESS. THEY COULD BE PREPPING FOR AN ATTACK ON THE TOWERS.
BY THE WAY, THE CONTACT TEAM YOU SENT TO LIBERTY ISLAND WAS WIPED OUT AND THE RAZORS HAVE WHATEVER WAS IN THAT CAPSULE.
THEY GOT AMBUSHED BY THE DRAHN IN PHILADELPHIA. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
BUT THEY WERE OUR ONLY HOPE OF TAKING THE TOWER!
OUR POWERS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO GO AGAINST LYNCH'S BLACK RAZORS AND THE OTHER GEN-12!
HE IS CALLED THE GRIFTER.
TO THOSE IN POWER HE IS CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS ENEMY OF THE STATE. BUT TO MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND REBELLION, HE IS A RELUCTANT HERO AND POSSIBLY THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WITH THE POWER TO CHALLENGE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, JOHN LYNCH.
HOWEVER, AS FAR AS COLE CASH IS CONCERNED, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE HIS OWN MAN.

THEN WE'RE FINISHED. NOTHING CAN STOP LYNCH NOW.
SO LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE. WE CAN'T GIVE UP NOW, ETHAN.
YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT. I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE. BUT RIGHT NOW, WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS FIND OUT WHO OR WHAT WAS IN THAT CAPSULE.
IF BOBBY AND SARAH ARE RIGHT, IT COULD BE JUST WHAT WE NEED TO TIP THE SCALES IN OUR FAVOR.
THEN ETHAN SHOULD BRING IN VIBE AND ENERTIA TO HELP US.
HOLD ON, BOBBY. DOC AND I MAY HAVE PUT THEM UNDER --
-- BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THEM NOW. THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT.
BESIDES, THEY'RE JUST KIDS.
THEY MAY BE YOUNG, BUT DON'T FORGET THAT BOBBY AND I WERE ABOUT THEIR AGE WHEN LYNCH FIRST RECRUITED US.
SARAH'S RIGHT. WE'RE OUT OF TIME AND OPTIONS
KLAK
ETHAN, YOU AND YOUR FATHER LOCATE ENERTIA AND VIBE. THE REST OF US WILL FIND OUT JUST WHAT THE RAZORS BROUGHT BACK FROM LIBERTY ISLAND.

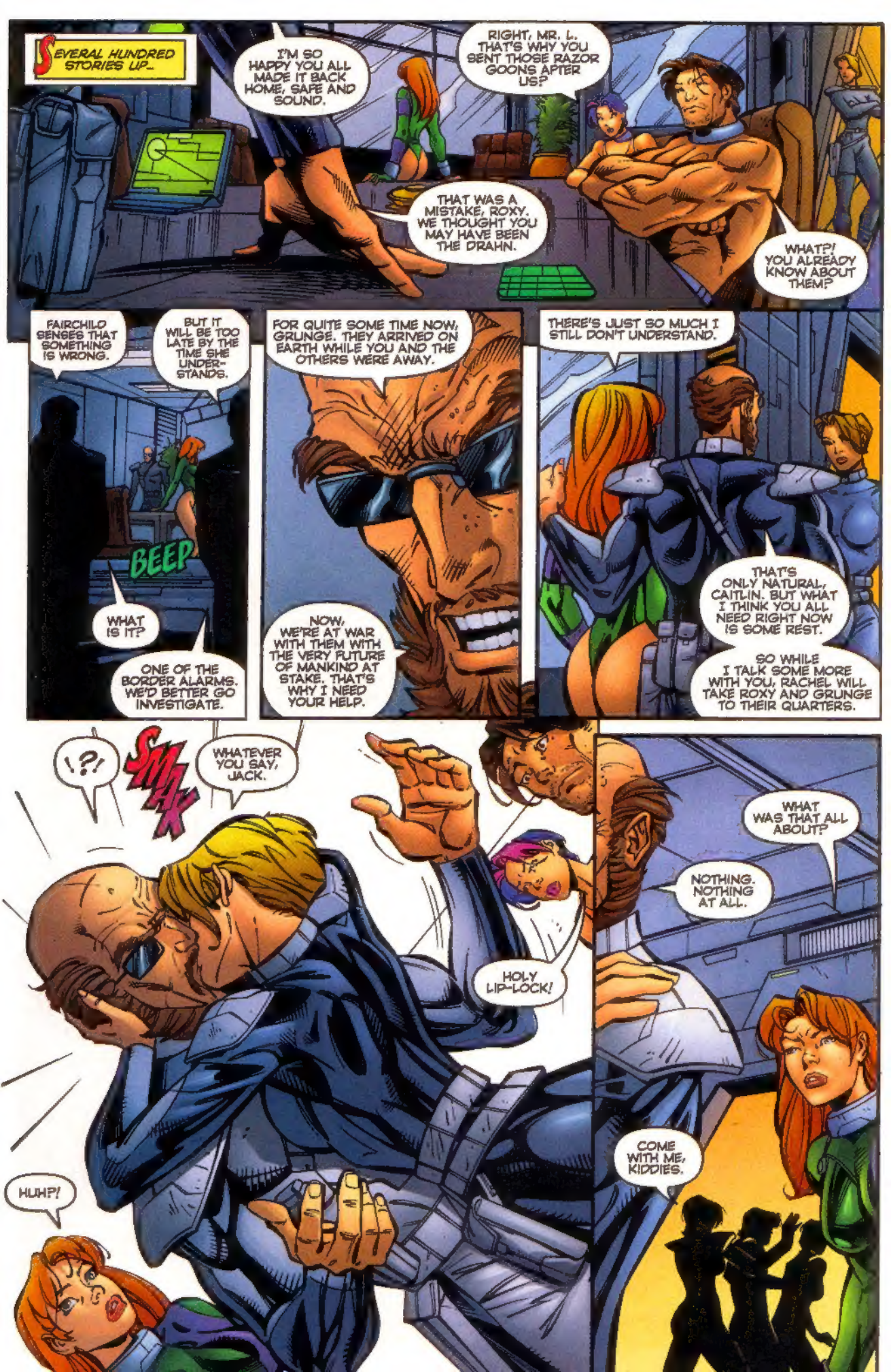
ELSEWHERE...
UNNH...
KAT, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
GRUNGE?!
THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
WHERE ARE WE?
IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE.
THEY'RE FINALLY COMING AROUND, MS. GOLDMAN.
C'MON, ROX! GIVE US A SIGN!
UNNH.
I THINK SHE'S WAKING UP, GRUNGE.
DON'T WORRY, SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE. LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, OUR ORDERS WERE TO BRING YOU IN ALIVE.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US NOW?
THAT'S OUT OF MY HANDS, CAITLIN.
LET'S JUST SAY THAT YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.
AND YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE YOU?!

LOOKING AT THE THREE OF YOU, I REALLY DON'T SEE WHAT THE FUSS WAS ALL ABOUT. THOUGH I MUST ADMIT, YOU DO LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, CAITLIN.
GEE, COULD YOU PUCKER UP A LITTLE MORE WHILE YOU'RE KISSING KAT'S @$$?
WAIT A SECOND! I KNOW YOU!
YOU'RE SUBLIME! ONE OF IVANA'S GEN-ACTIVES!
VERY GOOD. WE MET BACK ON GAMORRA.
NOW SETTLE DOWN, GIRL.
THE NEURO-COLLAR IS EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL, BUT WON'T DO ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE.
ZZAP
AARGH!
ZZAP
HUNNGH! WON'T -- GIVE -- UP!
ZZAP
AAAGH!
THE FIGHT'S OVER CAITLIN. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS NEVER HAD A CHANCE SO JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE RIDE
YOU WEREN'T COPPING THIS KINDA 'TUDE WHEN WE KICKED YOUR COLLECTIVE @$$ BACK ON GAMORRA! BETTER ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, SUB-WHINE!
WHERE'S YOUR WITCH QUEEN, IVANA?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IVANA. SHE'S NO LONGER IN THE PICTURE, SPAULDING.

I.O. WORLD TOWERS...
STAGE COACH MASTER, YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAND ON VECTOR ONE-EIGHT-ZERO. DO YOU COPY?
ROGER THAT, TOWER CONTROL. NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT HIS PACKAGE IS INTACT.
HE'S AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE HANGAR BAY, MA'AM.
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
SAY AGAIN?
NOTHING. STAGE COACH OUT.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US -- NEVER GIVE UP!
RELAX. I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY THIS. AT LEAST I WILL.
YOU MEAN THE FIRING SQUAD?
MORE LIKE A REUNION.
SAY WHAT?
I -- I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!
HELLO, KIDS.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE ALL OF YOU AGAIN.
THAT VOICE!
CHECK IT OUT! IT'S MR. L!
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, GRUNGE.

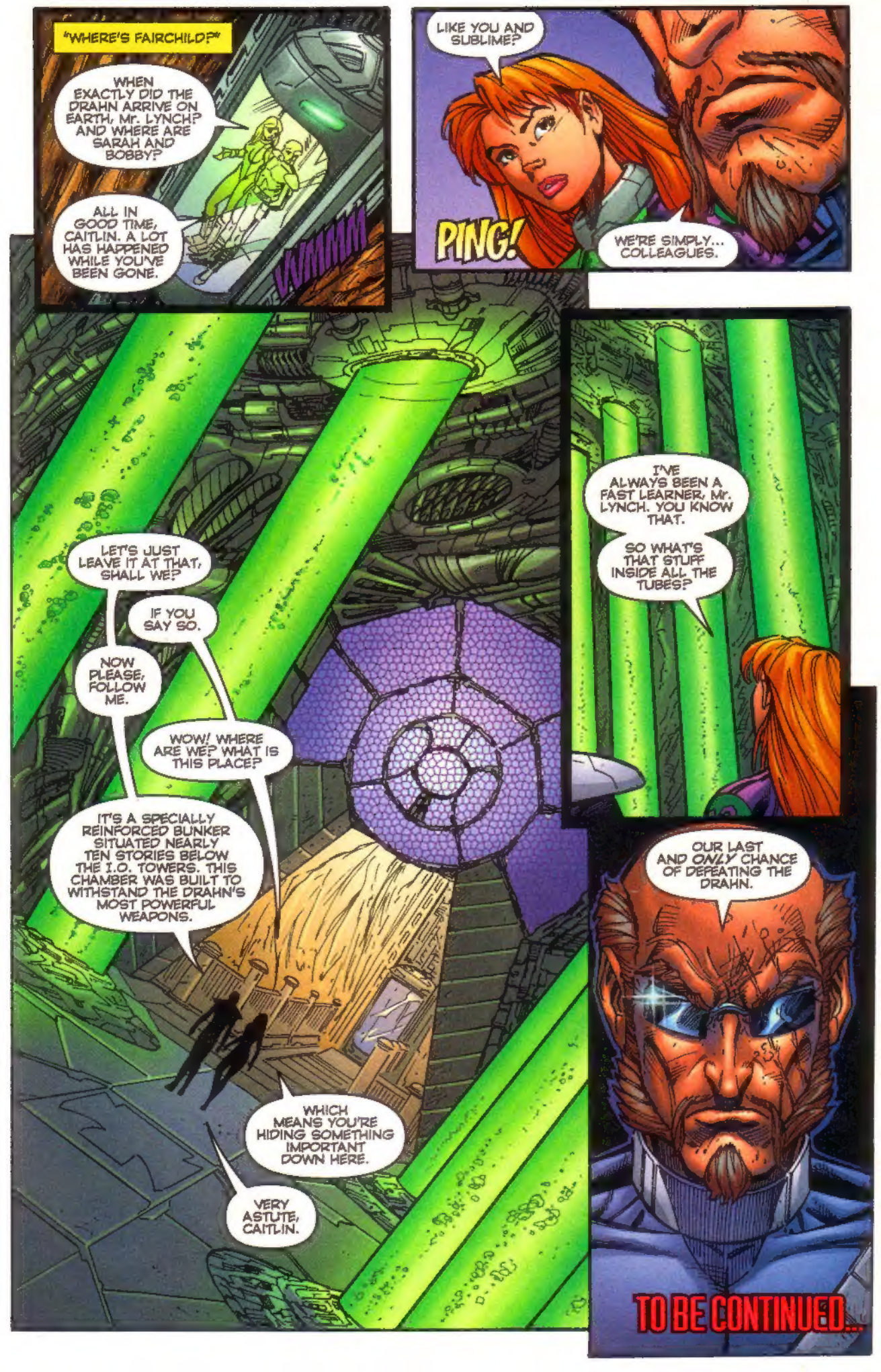
SOHO.
LOCATED IN THE WORST PART OF THE BAD SIDE OF TOWN, IT IS A HAVEN FOR THE CUTTING-EDGE HIP AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS OF THE CITY.
BUT DESPITE ALL THE HARDSHIPS, IT IS STILL PREFERABLE TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF MANHATTAN.
ANY SIGN OF THEM, ETHAN?
NOT YET, DOC. THEY'VE DONE A GOOD JOB OF LAYING LOW.
I'M DOWN TO MY LAST LEAD. LET'S HOPE I GET LUCKY.
WATCH IT, MAN!
BUT I DON'T WANNA GO!
WE'RE BROKE! THOSE STEROID FREAKS STOLE ALL OUR CASH.
INSIDE THE DANCE CLUB...
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, IF YOU WANT IN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE TOLL.
I DON'T THINK SO.
OH %@@*! HE'S GOTTA BE ONE O' THEM SPBs!
FLAP
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, SUPER-FREAK! YOU JUICE UP HERE AND THE RAZORS'LL BE ALL OVER YOU!
I'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY GET HERE. BUT SO WILL YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.
ZZZMMM
NOOO —
HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE RAZORS, McCAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO END UP GETTING US ALL KILLED.
IF GRIPTER IS RIGHT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON, THEN THEY'RE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS.
NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

BATTERY PARK...
SO FAR, SO GOOD.
COLE, WON'T I.O.'S SENSORS START REGISTERING OUR GEN-SIGNA-TURES?
THERE'S OUR POINT OF ENTRY.
DR. TSUNG SAID HIS SUPPRESSOR MODULES SHOULD HIDE US FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR OR SO.
I'M READY. ARE YOU UP FOR THIS, SAR --
LET'S JUST DO IT!
FWOOSH
ZZRAKK!
PHUM PHUM PHUM
OH $#%@! IT'S THE GRIPTER!
$@@% ME! I CAN'T BLAST THROUGH HIS BODY ARMOR!
PHUM PHUM PHUM
TOWER CONTROL! THIS IS TEAM BRAVO!
I'VE GOT A SITUA--
PHOOM
NO CHOICE NOW!
REPEAT THAT, BRAVO! WE LOST YOUR SIGNAL!
GOT TO -- FIGHT IT!
COLE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO!
FEEL -- THE RUSH -- COMING!
I'VE GOT TO USE THE MOJO!
I'LL BE FINE, BOBBY. KEEP MOVING. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.


SEVERAL HUNDRED STORIES UP...
I'M SO HAPPY YOU ALL MADE IT BACK HOME, SAFE AND SOUND.
RIGHT, MR. L. THAT'S WHY YOU SENT THOSE RAZOR GOONS AFTER US?
THAT WAS A MISTAKE, ROXY. WE THOUGHT YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE DRAHN.
WHAT?! YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THEM?
FAIRCHILD SENSES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.
BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE BY THE TIME SHE UNDER-STANDS.
BEEP
WHAT IS IT?
ONE OF THE BORDER ALARMS. WE'D BETTER GO INVESTIGATE.
FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, GRUNGE. THEY ARRIVED ON EARTH WHILE YOU AND THE OTHERS WERE AWAY.
NOW, WE'RE AT WAR WITH THEM WITH THE VERY FUTURE OF MANKIND AT STAKE. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.
THERE'S JUST SO MUCH I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL, CAITLIN. BUT WHAT I THINK YOU ALL NEED RIGHT NOW IS SOME REST.
SO WHILE I TALK SOME MORE WITH YOU, RACHEL WILL TAKE ROXY AND GRUNGE TO THEIR QUARTERS.
!?!
SMAK
WHATEVER YOU SAY, JACK.
HOLY LIP-LOCK!
HUH?!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.
COME WITH ME, KIDDIES.

THE SEAPORT LANDING...
I STILL SAY THIS IS A WILD GOOSE CHASE, SARGE.
LISTEN UP, ROOKIE. WHEN DANE SAYS "JUMP", YOU SAY "HOW HIGH, SIR?!" HE'S G-12, KID. YOU DON'T WANT TO PISS HIM OFF.
SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON THE SCANNER?
NOTHING SOLID. THE ELECTRICAL STORM IS CREATING A LOT OF INTERFERENCE.
SPLATCH
I'VE GOT SOMETHING, SARGE! WHATEVER IT IS, IT AIN'T BASE-LINE. OH #%@! THE SIGNAL'S RIGHT --
GRARRGH!
IT'S A DRAHN SCOUT! CALL THE TOWER!
BUT IT DIDN'T REGISTER ON --
THAT'S 'CAUSE IT STARTED OUT DOMESTIC. THEN THE DRAHN "EVOLUTIONIZED" IT! NOW CALL FOR BACK --
SPLATCH
SPLATCH

THE DETENTION BLOCK...
MED-TECHS? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
PRISONERS? WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
WE HAVE ORDERS TO OBTAIN CORTICAL SAMPLES FROM THE PRISONERS.
CORTICAL? AS IN HUMAN BRAIN?
I...I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
SAVE IT, SISTER! HEY, LET GO OF ME!
YOU AND MR. L ARE SHOWIN' US JUST A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE!
GET THIS THING OFF OF ME!
JUST TRY TO RELAX. THE PROCEDURE ITSELF IS QUITE PAINLESS...
...THOUGH IT IS FREQUENTLY FATAL.
NOT TODAY, YOU BUTCHERS!
FWOOSH
VVWWSSH
INTRUDER ALER -- URRGH!
OH MY GOD!
I -- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
ROX! HERE WE GO AGAIN!
BOBBY?! SARAH?! IS IT REALLY YOU?!
IT'S US, ROXY. DON'T WORRY YOU'RE BOTH SAFE WITH US NOW.
WAIT A SECOND. THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THREE OF YOU HERE.


"WHERE'S FAIRCHILD?"
WHEN EXACTLY DID THE DRAHN ARRIVE ON EARTH, Mr. LYNCH? AND WHERE ARE SARAH AND BOBBY?
ALL IN GOOD TIME, CAITLIN. A LOT HAS HAPPENED WHILE YOU'VE BEEN GONE.
WMMMM
LIKE YOU AND SUBLIME?
PING!
WE'RE SIMPLY... COLLEAGUES.
LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT, SHALL WE?
IF YOU SAY SO.
NOW PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.
WOW! WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT'S A SPECIALLY REINFORCED BUNKER SITUATED NEARLY TEN STORIES BELOW THE I.O. TOWERS. THIS CHAMBER WAS BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE DRAHN'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS.
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING IMPORTANT DOWN HERE.
VERY ASTUTE, CAITLIN.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FAST LEARNER, Mr. LYNCH. YOU KNOW THAT.
SO WHAT'S THAT STUFF INSIDE ALL THE TUBES?
OUR LAST AND *ONLY* CHANCE OF DEFEATING THE DRAHN.
TO BE CONTINUED...